

**Applicant's Amendment and Response Under 37 CFR Section 1.111**  
**To United States Patent and Trademark Office Examiner's Action**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**I      INTRODUCTION**

On October 15, 2004, an United States Patent and Trademark Office ("Patent Office") Examiner's Action was issued for the Application. The examiner made the Action final and provided a shortened statutory period for response of three (3) months from the mailing date of the Action, *i.e.*, to January 15, 2005. In order to request that the finality of the Action be withdrawn, Applicant also submits herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Applicant submits herewith a Request for Extension of Time of two months, *i.e.*, to March 15, 2005, to reply to this Action. Accordingly, Applicant's Response is timely as it is being filed on March 15, 2005.